



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK

OLD AGE INSURANCE AND HEALTH QUESTIONS

A WONDERFUL thing has happened in Great Britain; all the old wage-earning people over seventy who have not been dependents of the state are getting old-age pensions. The day has dawned that was wished for by Ruskin, who said that he hoped some time all the aged workers would go to draw their pensions from the state just as veterans of war do.

This may be the beginning of the disappearance of the dreaded almshouse with its bitter bread of charity.

Many countries have now some form of old-age insurance, that of Germany, which is a part of the compulsory state insurance against sickness, accidents, invalidism, and old age, being the most thorough and far-reaching in its effects. The German state compulsory insurance has turned out to be the most wonderful and efficient engine for preventive medicine that the world has yet seen.

After paying enormous sums for the invalidism that was often the lot of laboring people, Germany set herself to work to prevent the invalidism, especially that which was premature. It was in this way that the gigantic campaign against tuberculosis was set in motion, then followed investigation and curative treatment for nervous disorders and all chronic diseases, with searching inquiry into their causes. As a result, an enormous stimulus has been given to the efforts for limiting hours of work and preventing overwork, and this movement will not cease until all hours of labor have been scientifically restricted and medical inspection made a part of all industrial establishments.

Next, Germany took up the question of alcoholism, and now of venereal diseases, both of which contribute to premature invalidism.

In connection with this work Germany has established in several universities chairs of social medicine, and a great development is going on in preparing medical men by special instruction and training to study disease from the new standpoint and to become capable co-workers in the government insurance.

An extensive and entirely new literature is growing up, much of

which treats of the subject of fatigue, which is now being made the subject of most scientific and minute examination and investigation. In studying this subject of fatigue, however, the Italians led the way; though having no state insurance, the Turin school of medicine, which is remarkably liberal, sounded the alarm of the overwork of laboring populations, and the writings of Mosso are the classics on this subject of fatigue. The French have also done much interesting practical work on this line, their law, making compulsory one day of rest in seven, having been strongly supported by men who had followed all the physiological proofs given by science as to the need of rest.

England led all other countries in factory legislation and short hour movements, and her factory inspectors and medical men have given ample clinical testimony on the evil effects of overwork as regards health.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES

THE English nurses are undertaking the entire management of the Congress which is to accompany the regular business meetings of the Council, and a most interesting and inspiring program is promised, with a valuable exhibit of devices and inventions, etc., made by nurses. This will also be a good opportunity for the display of literature; we hope all the countries will bring their journals and reports.

The business meeting will be held on Monday, July 19, at 11 A.M. and the Congress will open at 10 A.M. at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on the 20th of July.

THE ASSOCIATION OF NURSING SUPERINTENDENTS OF INDIA

MISS THORPE has sent details of great interest as to the meeting of the association in December last, which we are obliged to condense. The superintendents there have done as ours did here, in organizing an association of nurses. This nurses' society, affiliated with the superintendents, will give a National Council, and we hope soon to have it in membership in the International. It was also decided to establish a journal, for at least one year's experiment. The superintendents' program included papers on "The Place of the Indian Nurse in Social Service" and "The Necessity for Registration for Nurses in India." Copies of the report in full may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, care of Miss Martin, St. Catherine's Hospital, Cawnpore, India.

ITEMS

MISS BEAZLEY, of the Nurses' Settlement in New York is still up to the eyes in hospital work in Naples with the victims of the great disaster. She writes with great enthusiasm of the universal spirit of

unity in bringing help, and reports with joy that all the patients' faces have now been washed. Miss Baxter and Miss Turton have also had their big public hospital, the *Gesú è Maria*, filled, and are working night and day.

THE announcement of the District Nursing Congress to be held in Liverpool in May sounds most interesting, and it is probable that Miss Jane E. Hitchcock of the Nurses' Settlement in New York will go over for it.

REGISTRATION is coming to the fore in Holland, where the officials of government are inquiring into it, and the nurses' organization will give testimony as to nursing education.

GERMANY is moving on slowly in bringing the imperial act into effect; so far, Alsace and Lorraine, Gotha, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and Schwarzburg-Sondershausen have carried its provisions into effect. The German Nurses' Association has recently sent inquiries to the medical bodies of the different states of the Empire to learn what steps have been taken or are under way for its adoption. The bill is, like ours, permissive.

THE Education Committee of the London County Council is extending open-air schools for delicate and tuberculous children. There will soon be four of these schools.

IN spite of the darkly reactionary cloud over Russia a Congress of Russian Women, the first, to which came more than 800 women, has lately been held in St. Petersburg. Mme. Mirovitch, writing of it in *Jus Suffragii* says: "The Congress gave a very full and tragic picture of the position of women of different classes and professions in Russia. All the reports clearly proved the necessity of changing the laws and customs which deprive women of liberty and impose on them the chains of subjection." Her letter is dated January 3. The congress was held in December.

BELGIUM has passed a bill giving women the suffrage and the eligibility required to admit them to the Courts of Trade.

THE women of Sweden have gained the franchise.